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LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 23 July 1993 from H.E. Mr. Vladislav Jovanovic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established under resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

The most recent actions and decisions of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991), as well as the actions of some of its members regarding requests of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for the approval of humanitarian relief to Yugoslavia, are evidence once again of an unacceptable abuse of humanitarian assistance for political purposes, which represents a flagrant violation of the basic norms of international and humanitarian law. The work of the Committee, as far as humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is concerned, is totally blocked. This threatens the health and the supply of basic humanitarian needs of millions of people, especially those in the most vulnerable categories. On the other hand, the Committee has reacted promptly regarding the request for approval of the flight to France for Mr. Vuk Draskovic, which is a clear example of political hypocrisy.

Such decisions of the Committee create unacceptable and very dangerous precedents. These decisions instigate justified anger among the people of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, who have proved their humanism and patience by giving refuge to an enormous number of refugees even under the conditions of rigorous and unjustified sanctions. Decisions of the Committee exemplify the absurdity of sanctions as a whole. The sanctions collectively punish a whole people which is not in any way involved in the civil war being waged on the territory of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. The victim of these sanctions is primarily the civilian population, which does not deserve such punishment.

Numerous field reports of representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reflect the very difficult situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the need to ensure that sanctions do not get in the way of efficient humanitarian relief. This was recently reiterated in serious terms by the highest officials of the international humanitarian organizations, Mrs. Ogata and Mr. Nakajima and Mr. Grant.

We believe that the Committee and certain of its members will finally understand the full absurdity of the situation, and that they will re-examine their positions regarding the requests of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for the importation of raw materials for pharmaceutical products and other humanitarian needs of the population of Yugoslavia. The adoption of a positive decision would at least temporarily, albeit in a limited fashion, alleviate the plight of the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which can be solved only by abolishing the sanctions.